



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

TO: Members of the State Board of Education

FROM: Mike Flanagan, Superintendent

DATE: March 1, 2007

SUBJ: MEAP PERFORMANCE LABELS

The U. S. Department of Labor's Michigan office - Office of Apprenticeships - has contacted us regarding the use of the title "Apprentice" for the lowest level of MEAP achievement and has requested that we reconsider its use.

"Apprentice," we have been advised, is a word used generally to describe a program of post-secondary training in a particular skill area that involves formal instruction as well as on-the-job or in-the-field experience as a learning component. As such, "apprentice" represents a level of achievement beyond that represented by its use in the MEAP program.

At a recent meeting of the Superintendent's Group, it was agreed that the label "Apprentice" is subject to misinterpretation. Ed Roeber was invited to suggest a replacement label and, in the process of doing so, recommended changes in other labels as well, as can be seen in his attached memorandum. Dr. Roeber is not requesting state board action at this time. This is an information item only. Dr. Roeber's memo is addressed to members of the Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability Advisory Committee.

When responses from the Advisory Committee have been received and considered, Dr. Roeber, through Dr. Hughes, will submit to me an updated report and recommendation. In the meantime, I thought the board should be aware of this effort and be provided an opportunity to weigh in.

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To: OEAA Advisory Committee
From: Ed Roeber
Date: March 1, 2007
Subject: Potential Change in MEAP and MME Performance Level Labels

A concern has been raised regarding the performance labels that are used to describe the performance of students on the Michigan Educational Assessment Program (MEAP) and the Michigan Merit Examination (MME). The current levels of performance on the MEAP and MME are as follows:

Performance Level	Performance Label
1	Exceeded the Standard
2	Met the Standard
3	Basic
4	Apprentice

The concern that has been raised is over the use of the word "apprentice," since this is a word used for students who do well in career tech programs. Department staff has been asked to change at least this performance label.

Since we need to request approval of the State Board of Education to make any changes, and because we need to indicate to the MEAP and MME contractor by this spring what performance labels we plan to use, I am writing to poll members of the Advisory Committee.

Staff is proposing to change the performance labels to the following:

Performance Level	Old Performance Label	Proposed Performance Label
1	Exceeded the Standard	Advanced
2	Met the Standard	Proficient
3	Basic	Basic
4	Apprentice	Below Basic

Note: The proposed changes will not change the passing levels or scores, or in any way affect the reporting of longitudinal results from either the MEAP or MME programs. It would only be a change in what performance levels 1, 2 and 4 are called.

Please use the attached form to indicate your agreement or disagreement with the proposed changes. I will rely on the consensus of the Advisory Committee in making a recommendation to the Superintendent for presentation to the State Board of Education.

Please let me know if you have any questions about this memorandum or the proposed changes to the performance levels. I can be reached at (517) 373-0739 or via e-mail at roeber@michigan.gov. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

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**Office of Educational Assessment and Accountability
Advisory Committee**

Survey on MEAP and MME Performance Level Labels

OEAA staff has proposed changing the performance level labels used with the MEAP and MME program as follows. Please indicate at the end of each line whether you agree or disagree with the changes and then note in the "Comments" box any suggestions you have for alternative wording or reasons for your responses. Return to the address shown below by mail or fax by the deadline. Thanks!

Performance Level	Old Performance Labels	Proposed Performance Labels	Mark "Agree" or "Disagree" Each Line
1	Exceeded the Standard	Advanced	
2	Met the Standard	Proficient	
3	Basic	Basic	
4	Apprentice	Below Basic	

Comments: _____

Name: _____ Fax Number: _____

Telephone Number: _____ (work/home)

E-mail: _____ (work/home)

Please return this form to the following address no later than March 17, 2007 or e-mail Ed at the following e-mail address:

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